

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL RICHMOND 1998 OAK CREEK CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 1998*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly outstanding resident of my congressional district, Mr. Michael Richmond, whose years of dedicated service to his community and his country have been recognized as he has been named 1998 Oak Creek Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Richmond has made a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of Oak Creek, Wisconsin youth, first as a classroom teacher from 1974 to 1985, then as Athletic Director for the Oak Creek-Franklin School District from 1985 to the present. He has worked countless hours coaching boys and girls in track and cross country, as well as acting as the boys swimming and basketball coach. In 1984, he was named District 7 Cross Country Coach of the Year. Mike has also served as a volunteer coach for a number of basketball camps and tournament teams for the school district.

In addition to the many significant contributions Mike Richmond has made during his tenure as Oak Creek Athletic Director, he also served his country for 21 years as a member of the 84th Division of the U.S. Army Reserves, and was named Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year from 1983-1986. Mike's dedication also extends into the community of Oak Creek, where he has been involved in a number of activities, including community run/walks to raise funds for the community center, and city cleanup activities.

Mr. Richmond is an active member of the Oak Creek Education Association, having served for 24 years as chairperson of Public Relations, and is also a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Association, the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association, the WADA National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, and St. James Catholic Church.

Mike is a caring and devoted educator and an excellent role model for Oak Creek youth. He is also a devoted family man who has been married nearly 28 years to his wife, Judy, and has been blessed with three children, Chad, Mark and Beth. Please join me in honoring Mike for all he has done to help make the City of Oak Creek such a special place to live and work.

A heartfelt congratulations to Michael Richmond, 1998 Oak Creek Citizen of the Year!

SPEAKER GINGRICH AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER GEPHARDT SHOW BIPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 3, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last week a bipartisan congressional delegation led by our

colleagues, Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH and Democratic Leader RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, visited Israel to celebrate 50 years of friendly relations between the Congress of the United States and the State of Israel.

This was an extraordinary occasion, Mr. Speaker. The visiting Members of Congress spent many hours in serious and substantive meetings with the President, the Prime Minister, leading members of the Israeli Cabinet, and our counterparts who serve in the Israeli Knesset across the whole political spectrum.

During this visit, Mr. Speaker, significant remarks were made on a number of occasions by the leaders of the U.S. Congressional delegation. Two speeches on two separate occasions, however, stand out in my mind as being particularly important. The first was the address to the Knesset by our Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH on May 26. The second was the speech by Democratic Leader RICHARD A. GEPHARDT at the Gala Dinner at the Israeli Knesset Honoring Fifty Years of Congressional-Israeli Friendship on the evening of May 25.

Mr. Speaker, I include these two addresses to be included in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to consider thoughtfully these two statements on the importance of the United States relationship with Israel as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel.

ADDRESS OF SPEAKER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NEWT GINGRICH TO THE ISRAELI KNESSET—MAY 26, 1998

Speaker Dan Tichon and Mrs. Tichon, ministers and deputy ministers of the government of Israel, members of the Knesset, former Knesset, speaker Shlomo Hillel, former members of the Knesset my congressional colleagues, distinguished guests and friends—and as I look out, I see friends, many of whom go back for many years.

It is a great honor to stand before you today in the Knesset, the one truly democratic parliament in the entire Middle East. For 50 years, the Knesset has led a nation that has gathered in people from over a 100 lands, survived the perils of many wars and built a thriving nation out of the desert.

As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the last 50 years, let me simply say "Kol ha kavod"—to you."

Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt and I have joined with the largest bipartisan gathering of congressmen and senators ever to visit Jerusalem. We are here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Israel's rebirth as a modern state. We commemorate 50 years of a close and cooperative relationship between our two countries and our two peoples.

In a sense, however, we are not only celebrating the last 50 years. The American and Israeli people are bound together by 3,000 years of a shared and ancient tradition. We are bound together by a common spiritual experience. It is a bond that is felt most powerfully here in this city. As we overlook Jerusalem, and look at the sights that touched the lives of Abraham, David and Christ, we understand the depth of a relationship that is far more than shared geo-political interest.

We are bound together morally. Our two countries are committed to freedom, democracy, the rule of law and individual rights.

We are bound together by pure friendship. It has been a privilege for me to return to Israel and spend time with our leaders, some of whom I've known for almost 20 years for Marianne, it has been a chance to see friends she worked with on the Israeli free trade zone issues.

A member of our delegation, Congressman Tom Lantos, a survivor of the Holocaust, first visited Israel in 1956. And this is his 57th trip to visit Israel. Two key chairmen in our delegation, Bob Livingston and Ben Gilman, have coupled their leadership in Congress with a deep understanding and love for the land and people of Israel. Another member, Congressman Henry Waxman, returns to Israel often to visit his daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren who live here.

The ties that bind America to Israel are greater than the economic and security interest that our nations share. We are two nations grown from a common source—both forged by the courage and imagination of pioneers, and both expressing in our founding documents our ultimate reliance on divine providence.

As we celebrate with you, we remember together the courage of David who established Jerusalem 3,000 years ago as the political and spiritual capital of the Jewish people. We commemorated that event the last time Marianne and I saw Prime Minister Rabin alive at an event in our Capitol, in the rotunda, to celebrate the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem. Prime Minister Rabin spoke with deep emotion of his own ties of Jerusalem, the city where he was born and the city he fought to defend throughout this life. We in Congress stood with him then and stand with you today in recognizing Jerusalem as the united and eternal capital of Israel.

We remember the commitment of the early Zionists who convened the first Zionist congress a century ago, lived through the horror of the Holocaust, and finally witnessed the birth of a Jewish homeland in Eretz Israel.

We remember the story of the last 50 years, of a state that has survived wars and countless acts of terrorism to maintain its place among the nations.

We remember with you because we believe that the anniversary of Israel's rebirth is not just a celebration for Israel alone. It is a celebration for all who are inspired by the faith that was born in this land. It is a celebration for all who see in Israel an outpost in the struggle for freedom across the globe. And it is a celebration for all who see in the fundamental relationship between our two countries a remarkable history and a great hope.

For we are here to celebrate more than the first 50 years. In a sense, we're here to celebrate the first 3,000 years.

And we're not just here to look ahead with you for the next 50 years. We dream of how we—and our children—can build a future that holds more than the hope for mere survival—a future that can lead to a lasting prosperity, an enduring peace and a truly free land.

Such a future—one marked by peace, prosperity and freedom—must be built upon an unending commitment to security for those who seek peace.

One of our greatest presidents, Ronald Reagan, had a simple strategy to expand freedom across the globe. It came down to three words: peace through strength. He knew that strength was the key to security and that security was essential to peace. He knew that a lasting peace required a durable security.

This truth was reinforced for me in a personal and powerful way during this trip to Israel. On Sunday, we visited the Weizmann Institute where we met with some of your most talented scientists to learn about the technological breakthroughs that will shape our mutual future. As we were leaving, I spoke to Manuela Dviri, whose son Yoni was killed in Lebanon on February 26 of this year. A 20-year-old staff sergeant from Kfar Saba, he served in an intelligence unit and died when a mortar round struck his position. Manuela had, in Abraham Lincoln's